

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : Bangkok, Saigon, CINCPAC

FROM : AmEmbassy PHNOM PENH

DATE: October 2, 1969

SUBJECT : RKG Declaration on Territorial Sea and on the Continental Shelf

REF :

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

In the A.K.P. of September 27 there appeared the following governmental declaration:

"In recalling that Cambodia adheres to the provisions of the Geneva Conventions on the law of the sea,

"the Royal Government solemnly declares that the width of its territorial sea is fixed at 12 nautical miles,

"and solemnly reaffirms its full and complete sovereignty over its continental shelf. In particular, there emerges from this (the fact) that the bottom and sub-surface of this shelf as well as all kinds of natural resources which are contained therein are the property of Cambodia and are, as a result, placed under its exclusive jurisdiction and direct control.

"The Royal Government neither admits nor recognizes any fait accompli or act threatening its sovereignty over its national maritime domain."

Comment: While no explanation is given for this declaration, it could apply both to possible territorial disputes with neighbors and to a prise de position as the time draws near for decisions on oil exploration awards.

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